**Draft Minutes of Gwernyfed Community Council Meeting**

**Held online as a Teams meeting.**

**on the 12 December 2024 at 7.30pm**

**In attendance**

Cllr. Nick Pritchard- Chair

Cllr. Will Lloyd

Cllr. Grahame Day

Cllr. Rachel Harding

Cllr. Chris Jones

Cllr. Mike Bugler

1. **Declarations of Interest**

There were none.

1. **Apologies**

Cllr. Peter Varcoe and Mrs Keren Bender (Clerk). Cllr. Mike Bugler was invited to act as Clerk following his offer to undertake this function as the Clerk was absent.

1. **Three Cocks Ecologist Assessment Report, Presentation by Daniel White**

The presentation was as a result of an Ecology assessment undertaken within the village of Three Cocks earlier in the year. Following this the Chair thanked Daniel for the excellent work and keeping it within the time allotted. He also reminded Councillors they were welcome to contact Daniel by email with any questions.

1. **Co-option of Mrs K Doell to become a Community Councillor**

Mrs K Doell had completed the necessary form, and the Clerk had confirmed that she was qualified to be co-opted. Cllr Bugler proposed that she be invited, and Cllr Harding seconded.

**Action Clerk**

1. **Agree Minutes of the 14th of November 2024 as a true record**

The minutes were approved and signed by the Chair.

1. **Matters Arising**

5b. The Finance subcommittee following the Clerks invitation met with ‘Love Glasbury’ representatives on 21st November who explained that their income was averaging £5-6,000pa below expenditure and hence the significant reduction in their bank balance over the years and the request for help from the Gwernyfed and Glasbury Community Councils. It was proposed by Cllr Bugler & seconded by Cllr Day that GCC award the grant requested by Love Glasbury of £1,500 to purchase Hand dryers and to defer the £3,000 grant to fund running costs to the next Financial Year. It was noted that Glasbury CC were contributing a similar amount.

**Action Clerk**

5c. The Clerk had informed Payroll, and the Clerk Salary award and Councillor expenses had been paid.

5e. The Clerk was to confirm payment to Welsh Air Ambulance of a £500 donation previously agreed.

**Action Clerk**

10. The website update was proceeding and will be reported on at the February meeting

**Action Cllr Day**

11. The Clerk was to summarise the changes to Financial Regulations 2024 and present them to the January 2025 Meeting

**Action Clerk**

The Chair noted that we haven’t received any response from Powys CC regarding the restoration of proper pavement arrangements at the Glasbury Bus stop where temporary improvements had been undertaken by the PCC and proposed that it be brought back on the January Agenda.

**Action Clerk**

1. **Correspondence and information.**

**Grant Funding Request – Helen Higgs - Gwernyfed High School (circulated)**

Since this was the 1st of 2 grants to be considered it was decided to formulate a GCC grants policy document which would be given to applicants setting out the conditions under which requests were granted together with documentary information to be supplied along with a request.

**Action Cllr Harding and Cllr Bugler**

In the meantime, Helen was to be asked by the Clerk to supply a detailed plan of how they are going to tackle attendance and ‘wellbeing’, the nature and amount of expenditure.  GCC being one small part of GHS catchment so also requested would be what other parts of the catchment area would contribute. Councillors also would like to know how this would fit with the Statutory provision. It was noted that the GHS had yet to report the on the allocation of £1,500 grant previously donated and called the ‘David Edlin’ fund allocation. This will be covered in the response back to Helen.

**Action Clerk**

**Grant Funding Request – Rose Vaughan- Penyrheol Baptist Church (circulated)**

It was noted that GCC had regularly supported the Baptist Church but would consider the matter at the next meeting once the Clerk had obtained the Bank balance which was omitted from the accounts supplied.

**Action Clerk**

**Canoe Launching Update – Sian Barnes (circulated)**

This item did not require discussion and was noted.

1. **Budget and Precept Update**

Cllr Bugler presented the budget produced by the sub-committee including the assumptions behind the key items of expenditure on projects, donations and the clerks salary (including provision for employers National Insurance following the lowering of the threshold to £5,000 in the Chancellors budget speech). It was noted the precept required to fund the expenditure at £23,688 was marginally below last year meaning no increase affecting Council Tax. The January meeting would confirm the precept to be requested.

**Action Clerk**

1. **Planning Applications**

There were none

1. **Clerk Recruitment Update**

Cllr Harding outlined progress stating that the Personnel sub-committee had shortlisted 4 candidates out of 18 applications and these would be interviewed on January 15th 2025 so that the successful candidate would be confirmed at the Council meeting moved to **16th January 2025** (see below) to accommodate this selection.

**Action Recruitment sub committee**

1. **County Councillor Report**

Cllr Lloyd had previously circulated his report which did not require any further discussion. He was asked about media coverage of the Welsh Govt allocation of the annual Grant to Powys CC being lower than the average of other County Councils and the reduction in the frequency of wheelie bin collections. He replied that as, yet no firm policy had been established but would report at a later date

**Action Cllr Lloyd**

1. **Training Report from Councillors – All Councillors who have attended recent Courses.**

The Chair and Cllr Harding confirmed that they had been on courses since the last meeting including Councillor as Employer, Local Govt Finance, Effective Staff Management, How to Chair Effectively, Air Quality and Diversity and Wellbeing of Future Generations Act.

The Chair noted that he had posted each of the handouts from the training into the Teams folder referenced ‘Training/handouts’ for other councillors to study as well as asking Councillors to continue to report on training courses they had attended.

**Action All Councillors**

1. **Flooding at Gro – Supporting Paper Circulated**

Cllr Bugler’s paper was discussed which ended with the proposal that the Clerk write to NRW, Welsh Water, and Powys CC about the solution to the continuing flooding at the Groe, discharge of sewerage causing a health hazard in a public right of way, and their failure to take steps to mitigate the consequences. The proposal was unanimously agreed by the Council. Cllr Bugler also advised that the owners and residents in the area has set up a WhatsApp group to which Councillors were invited to join. He also mentioned the NRW River level app and it was decided that GCC would initiate pumping when the level reached 4m being a specific bench mark to assist decision making.

**Action Clerk**

1. **Three Cocks Green Spaces Lease- Cllr Bugler- Supporting Paper Circulated**

Cllr Bugler reported that this rather lengthy and detailed document termed ‘Expression of Interest’ was primarily to provide justification to the Powys Strategic Asset Board (SAB) to grant a lease to GCC working in partnership with the Three Cocks Matter Group to engage in a project to develop green spaces and a play area to promote environmental conservation and provide recreational facilities. This project will enhance biodiversity, improve public health, and foster community spirit.  It was proposed by Cllr Day and seconded by Cllr Lloyd. The confirmed document was then to forwarded to Powys CC.

**Action Chair & Clerk**

1. Financial Matters

The following were reported to the meeting :

1. **Bank Balances** as at 10th December 2024

Reserve Account £9832.15, Current Account £9803.41

1. **Invoices and payments for approval**
   * + Clerks Salary and HMRC payments
     + Vodaphone – Broadband DD- £25.90 December Payment
     + Nick Pritchard – Monthly Teams Fee - £47.04 December Payment
     + OVW – Training invoice 8780 - £40
     + OVW – Training invoice 8838- £40

All payments were approved.

Next Meeting 16th January 2025 at 7.30 pm **(nb revised date)**

at Felindre Village Hall as a hybrid meeting over Teams